

"I cannot say that the present law is not violated, or that it has no detractors, but it is generally observed, and in some localities where the business is the most prosperous and successful, an intentional violation of its provision is seldom known.

"I wish to say that I think the fishermen are not so much to be blamed for the violations of the law as the people at large. If there were no purchasers for the illegal short lobster there would be no object for the fishermen taking them from the traps and keeping them, instead of liberating them as required by law. If the people—the buying public—would consider the question and think what it means to this state and to the poor fishermen, there would be few customers asking for short lobsters, and few men or women who would sympathize with those who violate the law for their intended profit.

"When we stop to consider we will see that one hundred 10 1-4 inch lobsters sold in July, which bring the fishermen from \$3 to \$6, if sold in August or September of the same year (when the lobster has moulted and taken a new shell and gained one-fourth of an inch in length and become a legal lobster) will bring from \$12 to \$20.

"Instead of assisting the violators, in about every case the people might assist the state in prosecuting and thereby benefit the honest fishermen, and instead of helping to make criminals would be making law-abiding citizens. At the same time fishermen that now make a business of handling short lobsters will have received more money for their season's work by complying with the law.

"A law with which the people are not in sympathy is hard to enforce, whether it is a law prohibiting the sale of certain fish or intoxicating liquors. I do not believe that making the limit less than 10 1-2 inches would be any advantage."

The whole report is very complete and comprehensive and shows careful preparation and accurate knowledge of the subject treated.

## FRESH FISH FIGURES.

### Some Interesting Information Regarding Receipts and Stocks.

The annual report of the Boston Fish Bureau gives the following interesting information with reference to the fresh fish business:

"The demand for fresh fish has been good. A large number of new vessels have been added to the fleet, which insures a good supply when bait is plenty and weather is favorable. Prices have ruled high. The high prices which ruled for meat increased the demand, and the summer consumption of ground fish, especially haddock, was much increased. The receipts from the fishing fleet at Boston, compared with 1901, have been as follows:

	Pounds.	1902.	1901.
Haddock		34,128,850	24,721,350
Codfish		23,233,900	16,892,450
Hake		8,223,850	7,487,850
Pollock		3,376,863	2,193,800
Halibut		2,258,820	1,421,716
Cusk		1,123,965	1,090,300
Totals		72,346,248	52,787,466

Some of the best stocks of fresh fish (gross) for the year were as follows:

Schs. Manhasset, \$36,500; Alice M. Guthrie, \$33,000; Benjamin F. Phillips, \$32,000; Sadie M. Nunan, \$27,100; Massachusetts, \$26,000; Mary P. Mosquito, \$24,870; Clara M. Littlefield, \$21,000; Clara R. Harwood, \$20,000; Horace B. Parker, \$19,000; Rose Standish, \$27,100.

February 2"

## DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

### To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Judique, La Have Bank, 15,000 lbs. fresh cod, 50,000 lbs. haddock.

Sch. Monarch, via Boston.

Sch. Vidia M. Brigham, Boston, for repairs.

Sch. Moanan, via Boston.

Sch. Annie Greenlaw, Quero Bank, 12,000 lbs. cod, 3000 lbs. fresh cod, 12,000 lbs. halibut, (incorrectly reported previously as sch. Oregon).

Sch. Theodore Roosevelt, Quero Bank, 16,000 lbs. halibut.

### Today's Market.

Board of Trade prices: Large headline Georges cod, \$4.25 per cwt.; medium do., \$3.25; large trawl Georges, \$3.75; medium do., \$3.25; headline cod from deck, caught east of Cape Sable, \$4.00; medium do., \$3.25; large trawl bank cod, \$3.25; medium do., \$3.00; large dory headline cod, \$3.50; medium do., \$3.25.

Board of Trade splitting prices on fresh fish—All cod caught on Le Have Bank and to the westward: Large, \$2; medium, \$1.40; all cod caught to the eastward of Le Have Bank, large, \$2; medium, \$1.40; snapper cod fish, 40 cts.; cusk, \$1.40; haddock, 85 cts.; hake, \$1.10; pollock, 60 cts.

Bank halibut, 13 cts. per lb. for white and 9 1-4 cts. for gray.

### Boston.

Sch. Richard Lester, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Emily Cooney, 4000 haddock, 800 cod, 1000 hake, 200 pollock.

Sch. James R. Clark.

Sch. Annie and Jennie, 3000 haddock, 400 cod, 100 pollock.

Sch. Frances Whalen, 15,000 haddock, 4500 cod, 9000 hake.

Sch. Carrie F. Roberts, 3000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Hattie F. Knowlton, 3000 haddock, 3700 cod, 1200 pollock.

Sch. Tecumseh, 3700 cod.

Haddock, \$3 to \$4; large cod, \$3.50 to \$4.50; market cod, \$2.75 to \$3.25; pollock, \$3.50; hake, \$4.

## WILL NOT OFFER BILL.

### Representative Schofield Finds Fishermen Opposed to It.

### Ex-Senator Smith Reports the Sentiment Here.

Capt. Sylvanus Smith, who has been interviewing the boat fishermen here to learn their sentiments in regard to Representative Schofield's proposed bill to regulate gill net fishing in the Merrimac river and its tributaries, completed his work on Saturday, and apprised the representative at his home in Ipswich that the sentiment here was strongly against the passage of a bill as proposed.

Representative Schofield said that his object was to find out how the proposed bill would be received by the Gloucester fishermen. He had no desire to do anything which would be detrimental to the fishermen, and for that reason he would not put in the bill.

## Herring Notes.

No news has been received recently from the vessels frozen in at Bay of Islands, N. F.

The Bay of Islands Western Star says that beside the American vessels frozen in at Wood Island, there are three Nova Scotia craft, schs. Mary M. Smith, Virgin Bell and one other.

The Star also says that the bay is frozen to Lark Harbor, and as far as the eye can see the gulf is blocked with drifting ice. A few vessels are reported one or two miles outside, and if so their situation will be critical when the floe begins to run.

Capt. Charles Young is contemplating starting for Bay of Islands to look after the interest of his vessel, sch. Dauntless, which is one of the herring fleet frozen in the ice there.

## THE FORTUNE BAY RIOTS.

### Newfoundland Fishermen Attached Americans in 1878.

### A Bit of History a Quarter of a Century Ago.

Twenty-five years ago a feeling of hostility was manifested by the Newfoundland fishermen against the American fishermen, and at this time, when proposed trade relations with that colony are being so generally discussed, it seems interesting to go back in history for a quarter of a century and reproduce incidents which in those days furnished much material for the weekly papers as does the news pertaining to the Newfoundland colony in the daily press at the present time.

The treaty of Washington, which opened up a way to a satisfactory settlement of the Alabama claims, so far as this country was concerned, had a provision by which the American market was thrown open to the products of the Provincial fishermen, free of duty, thus bringing their catch into active competition with ours, while American fishermen were permitted to fish in Provincial waters on equal terms with the British subjects, as the former claimed to their great detriment and loss.

The fishery provisions of the treaty also contained a clause providing for a commission to determine how much the United States should pay for the privileges vouchsafed her fishermen, over and above the freedom of her markets to Provincial-caught fish. The commission decided that the United States pay \$5,500,000, an amount the Americans claimed larger than the total value of all the fish taken or to be taken by American fishermen within Provincial waters during the 12 years that the treaty was likely to be in force. The money was paid, however, without controversy.

The fishermen of Newfoundland were especially restive under what they termed as the ceding away of their rights. They looked upon the shore herring fishery of the island as their own property; it was their principal source of revenue and they were dependent on it for a livelihood. If the fishery was taken away with them, or its value destroyed, starvation, they thought, would stare them in the face. Accordingly, when a large American fleet appeared on their coast in the winter of 1877-8 with improved apparatus for taking of herring, instead of purchasing a supply of the native fishermen, as had previously been the practice, they were greatly incensed and resolved to defend what they felt to be their rights.

The Gloucester fleet arrived in Fortune Bay about the middle of December, 1877, provided with seines, prepared to catch or buy fish as the circumstances might warrant. The fleet comprised 22 vessels. The herring struck in on January 6, 1878, in such quantities that a few hours would have sufficed to load the entire fleet. Schs. New England, Capt. Peter McAuley, and Ontario, Capt. John Dago, made a double set, taking about 2000 barrels.